

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this subject application are respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to because of punched hole in Figure 9. Applicants hereby submit a new sheet of drawings including Figure 9 for the Examiner's review and entry. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to requiring that information relating to the related application be provided. By this amendment, the serial number and filing date of the related application has been provided. In addition, an Information Disclosure Statement has been submitted with this response providing the Examiner a copy of that application as well as references cited in that application for the Examiner's consideration. An initialed PTO-1449 form indicating that consideration is requested.

Claims 20 and 34 stand objected to noting minor informality. The Examiner's proposal for overcoming this informality has been adopted. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 20 and 34 is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 20-32, and 34-44. Applicants also note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10, 11, 13, and 14. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of now cancelled claims 9 and 10. Allowable claim 13 has been rewritten in independent claim format. Claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9 and 10.

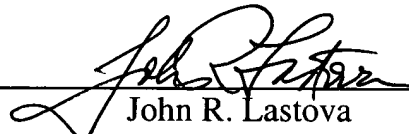
SPALING et al.
Appl. No. 09/736,574
December 11, 2003

Accordingly, all claims should be allowed, and therefore, the Examiner's prior art rejections are moot. The application is now condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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